



File Code: 1950; 2400
Date: January 8, 2021

Dear Interested Party:

This project announcement letter serves to initiate scoping, “an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed” (40 CFR 1501.7). I request your input on the following proposed action regarding the Fancy Hill Mine Reclamation Project.

Proposed Action

The Forest Service proposes to remove parts of the abandoned mining structure and install a closure on the facilities that would remain standing. In order to reach the site, the access would have to be cleaned of brush and some trees would have to be removed around the structures for equipment to gain access. The project is located in Section 22 of T4S, R26W in Montgomery County, Arkansas.

Purpose of and Need for the Action

The structures that are located on the site present a hazard to the public. There is a need to remove parts of the structure that would provide access and close off the remaining structure. The closure would need to allow bats and other wildlife that use the structure access.

Invitation to Participate in Project Planning

Scoping is not limited to a single point in time; we will continue to accept and consider comments until an implementation decision is made. With that said, your comments will be most helpful if they are received early in the process. They will help us identify environmental issues associated with implementation, and alternative ways to meet Forest plan objectives and desired conditions. Your involvement will enable us to better assess concerns of the public.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become a part of the public record for this proposed action. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the Agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents.

Objection Process

This project is subject to subparts A and B of *36 CFR Part 218 Project-Level Predecisional Administrative Review Process* (objection process); it is not authorized under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA).

The designated opportunity for public comment in response to this solicitation is **January 8, 2021 to February 8, 2021**. Providing specific written comments during this time will afford you standing to later file an objection to the project, should you desire (see Upcoming Project Planning Steps).



Pursuant to §218.2, specific written comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider.

How to Comment

Specific written comments must be submitted to: Becky Finzer, 1523 Hwy 270 E, Mt. Ida AR 71957 or fax to 870-867-3338. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Send electronic comments, in a common digital format, to comments-southern-ouachita-caddo-womble@fs.fed.us. Please state "Fancy Hill Mine Reclamation Project" in the email subject line when providing electronic comments, or on the envelope when replying by mail.

Upcoming Project Planning Steps

As stated above, your comments will help us identify issues and they will be used to formulate alternatives to this proposal. An environmental analysis will be conducted and the results will be documented in an environmental assessment (EA).

Upon completion, the EA will be released for public review and comment. A 30-day notice and comment period pursuant to 36 CFR 218 will be initiated. This comment period will afford you another opportunity to obtain standing to later file an objection to the project, should you desire.

An objection period, if required, will follow the regulation found in §218.7. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted specific written comments regarding the project and attributed to the objector, unless the issue is based on new information that arose after a designated opportunity to comment (§218.8(c)).

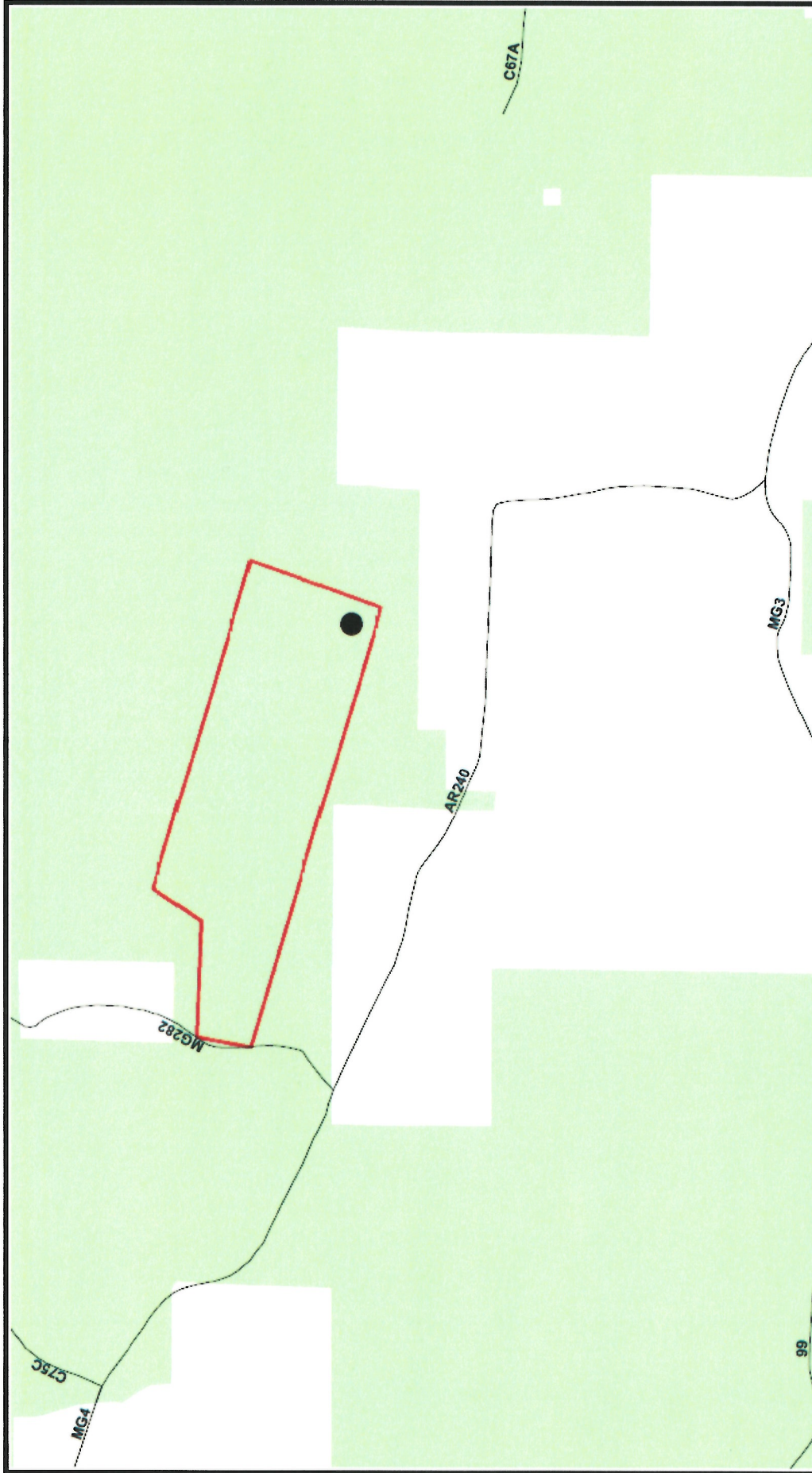
If you have questions about this project or would like more information, please contact Chip Stokes at 870-867-2101 or cstokes@fs.fed.us

Sincerely,



BECKY FINZER
Acting District Ranger

Enclosures



Vicinity Map



Sheet 1 of 1

Legend

- Location of Facilities
- ~ Road
- Project Area
- USFS Land
- Cities
- Waterbody

The Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. They may be developed from sources of differing accuracy, accuracy only at certain scales, based on modeling or interpretation, and incomplete while being created or revised, etc. using GIS products for purposes other than intended. The Forest Service does not warrant the accuracy or misleading results. This information was prepared on the date shown below. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products without notification. Designation of a road, trail, or area for motor vehicle use by a particular class or type of vehicle is not a guarantee of the Forest Service's intent. It is the responsibility of the user to follow the current Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM). The MVUM identifies those roads and trails designated for the motor vehicle use under 36 CFR 212.51 for the purpose of enforcing the prohibition at 36 CFR 26.112.



Map Creation Date - Jan. 6, 2021
Map Revision Date -

Fancy Hill Mine Reclamation

Caddo-Womble Ranger District

Montgomery County, Arkansas

U.S. Forest Service - R8
Ouachita National Forest

For more information, contact the Womble Ranger District at 1523 Hwy 270 E, Mt. Ida, AR or phone (870) 867-2101